

NORTH PRECINCT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Expanding Communication Between the Police and Community
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2008

Recorded by William Murray

The monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting for June began at 7:00 p.m., with Jack Heavner, presiding.

Officer Wes Ferris received an award for 40 years of service with the Seattle Police Department. Assistant Chief Jim Pugel presented the award on behalf of Chief Kerlikowske who was out of town. Officer Ferris was born in 1937 in Chicago, received a degree in Sociology from BYU and started with SPD in 1968 earning \$695 a month. Officer Ferris spent 37 years in the North Precinct as a Patrol Officer on second watch receiving 40 commendations during his career. Officer Ferris was joined by his wife and many fellow SPD officers as he received the award.

Topics Covered:

Special Presentation Speaker: Councilmember Jean Godden

Councilmember Jean Godden attended the Cowan Park Night Out celebration with Councilmember Sally Clark and Assistant Chief Jim Pugel and truly believes the first line of policing is neighbors watching out for each other. Councilmember Godden is the Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee and longs for the good times instead of today's bad economic times. Councilmember Godden discussed Seattle's \$3.5 billion budget of which \$920 million is General Fund derived from revenue sources such as property taxes (25%), B&O taxes (19%), sales tax (19%), utility tax (17%), and other sources (23%).

Councilmember Godden discussed the 2009-2010 biennial budget process in great length, assuring NPAC members that no cuts to Public Safety are being considered at this time and the Mayor's budget presented to Council should have funding for the additional officer positions for 2009 and 2010. Although we have the lowest crime rates in years, Councilmember Godden is deeply concerned with recent gang violence and mentioned the recent shooting death of a 15-year old South Seattle resident.

Councilmember Godden mentioned the City Council will increase members from three to seven for the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board to facilitate public

outreach to Seattle's citizens. NPAC members asked several questions in regards to the proposed Seattle Municipal Jail on Aurora Avenue North and why the public safety property on Third and Cherry wasn't considered for the new Seattle Municipal Jail. Councilmember Godden replied that the Public Safety property will be developed as mixed use with a parking garage, office space and a pocket park. Community members with budget questions were encouraged to schedule time with Councilmember Godden at her office in City Hall.

Precinct Update: Captain Mike Washburn/Lieutenant Monson/Sergeant Newsom

On July 5th an off-duty Seattle Police officer was playing basketball outside at Ingraham High where five young men were shooting fireworks and were asked to move away. Instead of moving away one young man pulled a pistol on the officer's basketball partner. The officer, who was also armed, was able to control five suspects and de-escalate the situation. Two suspects were booked for felony assault and a uniform firearm violation. Three others involved were juveniles.

On July 12th a man drove through Children's Hospital parking lot destroying the parking arm, prowled cars and carjacked a nurse's car and took off in her vehicle leaving a stolen vehicle behind. The same man later forced entry into a home on the 12300 block of 37th Northeast to steal a third car, although when backing out stuck the car on a rockery. The suspect who was under the influence of cocaine was soon found hiding under a tarp and was placed under arrest.

On July 21st at 3:30 p.m. a neighbor had a dispute and resorted to firing his 357 handgun through the door of his neighbor's car and was arrested for felony assault. The shooting occurred in the 13000 block of 23rd Northeast. A burglary occurred in the 800 block of 45th Northeast resulting in a smash and grab from a computer store window. Later the same evening two groups of burglars were found arguing over their newly stolen computers and promptly arrested by North Precinct burglary detectives and the North Anti-Crime Task Force.

In the early morning hours of August 4th at North Precinct a man was witnessed carrying a gun case with a 12-gauge shotgun and threatening to kill his neighbors. After being separated from the weapon the man was questioned and mentioned his thoughts were being transmitted from a transponder. The man was taken to Harborview for a psychiatric evaluation.

Sergeant Newsom introduced two Interns, Santino from West Seattle, and Marcus of Chief Sealth High, who are part of the Seattle Police Foundation Summer Job Program.

The North Precinct Summer Picnic drew 450 community members and was a large success with great food, music, prize drawings, and many special teams present. Many thanks to support from the Seattle Police Foundation.

Crime Prevention Report: Diane Horswill mentioned there were 600 Night Out events in the North Precinct alone and that she and Sergeant Newsom visited 80 of these events.

City Attorney's Office: Ed McKenna is on vacation.

DOC-NCI Team: Tony Dinsco discussed operations in the Lake City and University neighborhoods with referrals for warrants being the standard offense.

King County Prosecutor's Office: Corinn Bohn discussed budget shortfalls and a possible decrease in personnel for 2009 and a current hiring freeze. King County Prosecutor Dan Sattberg is working with the King County Council and the Washington State Legislature on possible funding sources.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Dick Hillmann - please give Dick any roster changes.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.